

# Talon



## Task Force Scorpion Org Day

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## Airmen Maintain Long-Standing Mission

Story By Aleksandar Ilic  
*TFE Public Affairs Media Specialist*

Over a quarter million human lives were taken during the three and a half year war in the Balkans. The Dayton Peace Accord brought peace to Bosnia.

The Eagle Base airfield became the world's center of attention as hundreds of planes transported tens of thousands United States and fellow United Nation peacekeepers and hundreds of tons of their equipment in order to help restore peace in the country. At that time, supporting the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia was the largest Air Force mission and the 401st Air Expeditionary Wing out of Aviano, Italy has carried the burden since day one. As Bosnia has progressed in its newly established peace, the number of peacekeepers, airmen included, has been reduced accordingly. Two years ago, the Air Force announced the redeployment of around 270 of its forces and shifted most of their operations to civilian contract companies supervised by the Air Force staff.

"We are still here to support the operation", said Tech. Sgt. Gwen Crabtree, an Air Force reservist and the Contractor Officer Representative for Eagle Base's airfield.

Key Air Force personnel still contribute to the peacekeeping mission.

"The Air Force's duty now is to oversee the contractors doing their job at the airfield," added Master Sgt. Mark Cope. The 401st Expeditionary Wing has detachments throughout

Europe which are responsible for U.S. aerial operations in various countries. Detachment 1, under the command of Lt. Col. Scott Dearlin, is stationed in Butmir with one part of the unit, is in charge of the operation in Bosnia while another group of airmen is working in the Multinational Task Force (North) zone of operation.

Until recently, Cpt. Julie Birt was the Eagle Base Airfield Commander and Chief of Airfield Operations, a position now held by Maj. David Sansom. The duties of that position focus on airfield operations in support of Stabilization Force's missions in MNTF(N) and manages the activities of all Air Force personnel and assets and ensures that the Air Force mission, as well as safety and force protection, is complied with.

The Airfield Commander also serves as the primary liaison between the Air Force and Tuzla International Airport. A portion of Airfield Operations falls to Crabtree who monitors airfield functions that include aerial ports, cargo movement trans-and-alert functions, ground fuel operations, training issues, collection and turn-in of hazardous materials and all other operations at the scene.

"For the most part, I observe that the contractors are fulfilling their contract as it's specified, make sure their documentation is done correctly and their procedures are up to date. I also provide them assistance as a liaison between Tuzla Air Base and U.S. Air Force, Europe; U.S. Army, Europe; and the Air Mobility Command back in the States."

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**Task Force Scorpion held a formation at the end of their Organizational Day. They were awarded the NATO Medal for Peacekeeping Activities while deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

Photo by Spc. Mike Bennett

# Italian Carabinieri Support MSU with Tradition of Honor, Service

Story By Maj. Jon Thurlow  
TFE Public Affairs Officer

The Italian Carabinieri are a familiar sight around Eagle Base, but few of us are aware of their unique organization and the role of SFOR's Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU).



Photos by 1st. Lt. Corrado Faggioni, Carabinieri  
**As a part of their overall training, the Italian Carabinieri work with both crowd control (above) and combat tactics (below).**

Peacekeeping operations are a relatively new concept for most military organizations. However, the Carabinieri have a long history of participating in peace operations. Victor Emanuel I, King of Sardinia, created the Carabinieri Corps in 1814 to provide the Piedmont region with a police corps.

Initially part of the Italian Army, the Carabinieri are now a fourth branch of the Italian armed forces with approximately 120,000 personnel. They have participated in every conflict that Italy has been involved with since its origin. Since then, they have served, or are currently serving, as peacekeepers in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, China, Crete, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Namibia, Russia, Eritrea, East Timor, and Somalia. In 1998, prior to the first post-war

elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, SFOR faced many distinctive challenges in implementing the General Framework Agreement for Peace. These challenges brought about the need for the creation of the MSU. Due to its specialized training and organization, the Carabinieri played a key role in developing the MSU concept. They helped to bridge the gap between SFOR traditional military forces and 'civil police type' units.

The MSU is organized, trained and equipped to operate with local police and military forces to perform a wide range of tasks, including civil disturbance operations. Although the unit's main responsibility is Crowd and Riot Control (CRC); it is able to carry out many varied and different missions.

This type of unit focuses on the civilian population, employs minimum force and uses small units to accomplish the mission. The MSU's key tasks in support of SFOR's mandate include: promoting public security, assisting in the return of displaced persons, negotiations, information gathering and contributing to crisis control in coordination with the European Union Police Mission. Under the operational control of the SFOR commander, the MSU provides a highly flexible force that is able to respond quickly to threat situations, in particular where public security and freedom of movement is in danger.

"Conventional military forces are not always trained and equipped to respond to complex, human dimension crisis situations. We are

not only military, we are police and our skills and techniques may be the best choice in certain security operations," said 1st. Lt. Corrado Faggioni, Carabinieri Liaison Officer to MNTF(N), whose forces recently conducted an information gathering patrol in Tuzla. "We are equipped with riot control equipment along with traditional military items such as helicopters, small arms and armored vehicles," he added. When asked what missions he enjoys most, Faggioni responded, "I enjoy our community aid programs and helping people. These programs also assist us in being able understand what is going on in the community and solve problems before they get out of control."

During the first half of 2004 the MSU carried out 43 humanitarian activities on behalf 10,235 persons.

The MSU contains approximately 600 troops from Austria, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovenia. Each unit rotates every six months and must pass a rigorous training exercise before they are certified to serve in the Balkans.

Following the handover from



NATO to EU by the end of this year, the MSU will remain in Bosnia and Herzegovina to support the International Community and local law enforcement organizations in fulfilling their tasks.



# Task Force Scorpion Organization Day Brings Fun, Competition







**Story and Photos By  
Spc. Mike Bennett  
TFE Public Affairs**

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Task Force Scorpion held an Organizational Day to celebrate its last day as a full unit, before elements of the proposed Enduring Mission were to begin their training for the new mission.

The soldiers competed in a number of games and events determined to test them both physically and mentally.

The soldiers formed eight-man teams and competed in events designed to test their ability to function as a cohesive unit.

The day began with a seven kilometer ruck-sack relay. The distance was divided into four segments, and soldiers passed a single ruck per team instead of passing a baton.

Immediately following the march, the second half of the team began an obstacle course with two half-mile sprints, a rope climb, a wall the soldiers had to climb over, a rope swing over a pit and a wall and guiding a raft made from a ruck sack across a water hazard.

Over the course of the day, the soldiers also were tested on the maintenance of the M-60 machine gun and were questioned by 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Michael Mattingly in both general topics and the fine details of being both a soldier and, more specifically, an infantryman.

A volleyball tournament and a horseshoe pitching tournament rounded out the days competitions. After the competitions were complete, the soldiers of Task Force Scorpion gathered and were awarded the NATO Medal for their Peacekeeping efforts as a part of Multinational Task Force (North).

The ceremony concluded with Lt. Col. Keith Taylor thanking the soldiers for their hard work and transferring the new Enduring Mission guidon and soldiers to Lt. Col. Charles Whittaker.



# Postal Mails More Than Letters Home

Story By Nedima Hadziubrisevic

TFE Public Affairs Media Specialist

With the redeployment date approaching, one of the things that every soldier should keep in mind is mailing things back home in time.

Operational seven days a week with finance windows opened every day but Sunday, soldiers of the 336<sup>th</sup> Postal Detachment, are prepared to assist service members in getting their belongings back home, as well as dealing with the regular influx of incoming mail.

"The mission of the 336<sup>th</sup> Postal Detachment is to provide quality customer service while ensuring the safety and security of the mail for the citizens of Eagle Base and Butmir communities," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Almetrius Swain, Detachment commander, with 12 soldiers on Eagle Base and two in Sarajevo.

"We have a finance section, operations, register clerks and directory."

In addition to free mail and the Military Postal System, the post office offers two types of mailing services: space available and priority.

"Space available takes two to six weeks to get home. Priority is seven to ten days," said Sgt. LaQueena Nance, finance Non-commission Officer in Charge. "You can also insure it, certify it and get a return receipt."

Prior to the deployment only several soldiers in the detachment knew each other. Spc. Charles McGill, register clerk, says that everybody gets along pretty well.

"I think we have come together and handle the job in a very professional manner," McGill detailed.

"I think we have responded to the pressure by coming together as a family."

For Staff Sgt. Richard Russel, 2<sup>nd</sup>

shift operations NCOIC, this is the third time he has been deployed in Bosnia.

He explained that many things have changed since his previous assignments in 1999 and 2002, most notably the number of soldiers and the improved working conditions and equipment in the section.

"Size of the element here, soldiers wise, has decreased a lot," Russel said. "In 1999, we were actually in the big tent compared to the hard building today."

Being Army Reserve, the soldiers of the Postal Detachment now have an opportunity to work with National Guard soldiers on a peacekeeping mission in the country.

"There are certain differences as far as the system they use and things like that," said Swain. "But, really, we are all soldiers. We are all part of the same mission. We work together."

With about 75 to 150 pieces of incoming and about 100 outgoing pieces of mail processing daily, the Detachment is becoming busier and busier.

Soldiers are urged to get their mailing done as soon as possible to avoid the last minute rush.

"All I can tell soldiers here on base is to plan ahead as much as they can," said Staff Sgt. Keshya Tyson, Custodian of Postal Effects and acting NCOIC of the Detachment.

Her responsibilities include management of finance windows and submitting daily reports to the United States Postal and to United States Army Europe.

"It makes it easier for everybody. Make sure that you have your custom forms filled out properly and be patient because as we draw closer to the day that people start getting on planes then we are going to get busier. But we are going to make sure they get taken care and their stuff gets back home."

## Tips For Sending Mail Home

Post Office is open

Mon-Fri 0900-1700

Sat 0900-1300

Payments are done only in dollars or Eagle Cash Card.

Things to remember for shipping packages home:

- Space Available Mail takes two to six weeks to get to the destination, while Priority Mail takes seven to ten days. It can be insured, certified or sent registered. Priority Mail cannot exceed 108 inches long and 70 pounds. Parcel Post cannot exceed 130 inches in length and 70 pounds. Parcels between 108 and 130 inches are charged an oversize surcharge.

- Regardless of weight, a customs declarations form, with all contents of the package listed, must accompany all mail that contains merchandise at MPO's. Use PS Form 2976 or PS Form 2976A (when more than 3 items are listed).

- Do not ship Cuban Products, gambling devices, pornography, drug paraphernalia, switchblades/butterfly knives, personal firearms, dry cell batteries, alcohol, TA50, war trophies, or any items that are not 100% soil free.

- Do not ship battery charged items with batteries inserted.

- Completely obliterate obsolete marking on containers that are reused for mailing. Do not only cross out the markings, but use paper or tape or heavy marking pen to cover all previously markings. Wrapping paper and tape are made available to customers in postal finance lobbies.

- Make sure the boxes are packed tight, properly wrapped without anything loose.



# Staff Judge Advocate Offers Many Services to MNTF(N)

By Maj. Wade Wallace

*Chief, Operational Law*

Chances are pretty good that Soldiers and civilian contractors on Eagle Base have interacted with a member of the Staff Judge Advocate section. In fact, given the legally intensive nature of military operations in a stability and support posture, you would have a discernibly turgid time performing your duty without the assistance of the SJA. From the very beginning of SFOR 15, during train-up at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, all the way through to preparations for going home, the SJA section has been a key player in the daily operations of Multi National Task Force (North).

Just like the rest of the soldiers in MNTF(N), the members of the SJA section come from diverse backgrounds.

Among the lawyers, serving as Judge Advocates (commonly referred to as "JAG's" or "Judge", depending upon whom you ask), a colorful history of civilian and prior military experience can be found. Maj. Jim Zieba serves the Task Force Deputy SJA. Zieba's full-time position back in Indiana is as a lobbyist for the Indiana State Medical Association.

Zieba routinely must balance the competing interests of the members of his section whom he supervises; the demands of the command; and the needs of the Task Force.

The SJA section also has its share of prior military experience, including two prior-service Marines, Staff Sgt. Pat Ramsey and Maj. Wade Wallace; and two prior service soldiers, Lt. Col. Dan Kozlowski and Sgt. Randy Beidler. In fact, Beidler, the legal assistance and Trial Defense Services Non-commissioned Officer, knows a thing or two about the Balkans, as he served a tour at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. Ramsey, the Chief Legal NCO for the section, can

also tell you a thing or two about law (though he stays "poker-faced" about his legal knowledge) as he is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis. Kozlowski runs the section as the SJA and is the principal legal advisor to the Commanding General. Along with Wallace (the Chief of Operational Law), both are former infantry-types. Back home, Kozlowski runs a successful law practice focusing on real estate development and gaming interests.

In fact, the SJA will tell anybody that Bosnia-Herzegovina is a country just waiting for the right investors to lead the way to lucrative commercial real estate development.

Maj. Don Currie is the Task Force Chief of Military Justice. A Chief Deputy Prosecutor with judicial aspirations back home, he is generally the kind of JAG you do not want to run into, as he is responsible for prosecuting violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and advising the command on matters of discipline and punishment. You might have a difficult time "running into him", anyway, as he just may be the fastest thing on two feet here at Eagle Base. They don't call him "the Streak", but Currie is an accomplished distance runner with a scary-fast time for two miles. Currie is ably assisted by Sgt. Jackie Maish. Maish, along with Beidler, earned her NCO stripes right here at Eagle Base.

Maish was also a supporting member of the SFOR 15 preparation scheme as she served an Active Duty for Special Work tour prior to reporting for active duty service.

Cpt. Ed Miller wears several hats here at Eagle Base. Do you have a question regarding a legal matter back home? Perhaps you need assistance with a will or a power of attorney? No matter the questions, Miller, assisted by Beidler, is the JAG you need to see as he is the Chief of Legal Assistance. Cpt. Miller has a diverse legal

background, which ideally suits him for the role of providing timely and accurate legal assistance to Task Force soldiers. But that is not his only role, as he is also the Chief of Claims.

Despite Miller's many "claims", the kind of claims to which I refer are those filed by local nationals against the United States government for damage claimed to be caused as a result of our operations here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this regard, Ms. Slavica Blazevec expertly assists him. Blazevec is the most experienced member of the SJA section. She has been with SFOR since the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division first rolled into Bosnia-Herzegovina as Implementation Force. Miller also will serve as your counsel if you have run afoul of Currie.

We have also enjoyed the augmentation of JAG's from units other than the 38<sup>th</sup> ID: Maj. Scott Frye from USAREUR; Cpt. Mike Wiederich of the 34<sup>th</sup> ID, along with Spc. Scholastica Simbi both augmented the section from the previous SFOR rotation; Maj. Jeannine Hamby spent a brief period of time as the Deputy SJA and enjoys the distinction of having an eating establishment in Sarajevo named after her – the "Hamby King". Well, we are not positive on the last part, but there is a restaurant named "Hamby King" in Sarajevo...

So, if you've had a question regarding whether or not you could purchase a cake with O&M Funds for a special event; you've required timely and accurate advice as the commander on a military operation in the field; or you've come into contact with the military justice system, chances are good that a JAG played a part in your time here at Eagle Base. However, and more likely, it was because you listened attentively to one of the many legal briefings we were required to prepare and present to each U.S. soldier serving with Multi National Task Force (North). Trust me (I am a lawyer, after all) – we enjoyed them just as much as you.



# Eye of the Cyclone



Right: The Finnish soldiers have begun settling in on Eagle Base in preparation for the new European Union mission, and so have their vehicles. Below: The LNOs to MNTF(N)



Top Right: Maj. Jon Thurlow wishes Maj. Gen. Virgil Packett well in his new mission. Right: Sgt. Keshya Tyson weighs a footlocker being shipped home.



## Airmen Continued from Page 2

"And if they have any issues, I work on those for them," explained Crabtree.

The work of the Tuzla Air Base Weather section has been under close watch by most of MNTF(N), especially because of the almost daily rains at the beginning of the summer.

Cpt. Joseph Marcello, Staff Weather Officer, and Cope, both members of Indiana Air National Guard, along with several civilians, use Air Force equipment to forecast weather conditions crucial not only for air operations, but all other peacekeeping duties in their area of responsibility.

"Marcello as the SWO is basically a liaison between here and the Army. He briefs the Army on the weather and my job is to oversee the contractors", said Cope.

"They are doing a really good job and they also have people in Doboj and Zenica," Cope continued, mentioning the two other weather

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observing points in MNTF(N).

"We also make the weather slide that you see on the web site," Cope added. Everyone agreed that their tasks in Bosnia are slightly different than what they usually do back home, due to having more of a supervising or administrative role here.

"Actually, it helped out. I've seen how aerial ports work as a unit. Now, stepping back from my day-to-day job, being an individual working with a lot of people, I can relate to a lot more things at my job and know how they function," explained Crabtree.

Formerly one of the most important air bases in Yugoslavia, the base has, at various times, been a home to thousands of Yugoslav, U.S. and other airmen. Now, there is a total of seven Air Force members.

Although the Airmen sometimes feel overwhelmed with work, they often find time to reach out and bring happiness to local children in need.

A visit to what is called an SOS Youth House, an organization which gathers 15-year olds, is being planned

in order to deliver a shipment of beds and sporting equipment collected by various organizations, as well as U.S. Air Force personnel and their families back home and in Germany.

Managing a full scale Air Force Base with only a handful of Airmen may seem like a nearly impossible task, but with the help of 150 contractors who are responsible for vehicle maintenance, supplies, Air Field maintenance, flight line security and some other Airfield operations, they still manage to keep Tuzla Air Base up and running and keep those freedom birds flying.

And yet, they face another huge challenge as the transition from SFOR to EUFOR approaches.



After several rainy Sundays in a row, Capt. Marcello began to feel the need to look after his own safety while briefing at the SUB